

Apprenticeship Program

The Apprenticeship Program is a training program approved by the Department of Labor Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) that allows a trainee, called an apprentice, to earn a wage while studying to become a cosmetologist, electrologist or a barber under the guidance and supervision of a California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board) licensee in a salon licensed by the Board. A contract, called an indenture agreement, is drawn up between an approved salon owner and trainer, the program sponsor and student apprentice.

This is a full-time two-year program. The apprentice must be employed full-time (at least 32 hours a week) and receive supplemental instruction in a classroom.

In order to qualify for the apprenticeship program a person must:

1. Be at least sixteen (16) years of age and have completed the 10th grade or its equivalency.
2. Have a current, valid, government issued, photographic identification card.
3. Have a valid social security number.
4. Contacted a program sponsor listed on the Approved Apprenticeship Program Sponsors list.
5. Have a licensed establishment and licensed trainer who is willing to train you.
6. Complete 39 Hour Pre-Apprentice Training from an approved program sponsor.

To start the process of becoming an apprentice, contact a Program Sponsor in your area. They will assist you with filling out the proper documents and application to gain your apprentice license. They will also provide you with additional information regarding specific program requirements.

After completing the required 3200 apprentice hours in an establishment and 220 hours of supplemental instruction in a classroom, you will apply for your professional license by submitting the Application for Examination and paying the required fee for the exam. After passing the examination, you will receive your professional license and will no longer have to work under a trainer.

NOTE: An apprentice cannot work until they have registered with DAS and this Board has issued an apprentice license. Failure to obtain all approvals before working as an apprentice will subject the establishment owner, trainer and apprentice applicant to administrative citations and fines.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the Board at (916) 574-7570, or a program sponsor in your area.